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Notes from Conversation with Joel Solomon in Georgia

• Met with Joel after he had had time to read the pages faxed to me from Mike and Ruth.

• He was friendly but indicated he did not see enough progress to warrant any further loans. I sensed he didn't rule them out entirely, but that he would have to see a lot more action before he could recommend them, and he saw very little time left for those things to be done before the second round was to be in place.

• He said that perhaps he had been naive to think we could do this.

• Things he is concerned about:
- No new board members, on board and working for fund-raising.
-No fund-raising staff, no development person.
-Seemed to think that our time spent in many meetings with SONY was wasted, since he could not see that such a project would be anything but a sale of Whole Earth to SONY. If we wanted to do that, that would be our business, but we should speak about it accurately.

• He liked, philosophically, the idea of a publication on Self-reliant community economies, acknowledging that this is what Whole Earth has always been about, but didn't see the business aspect of it yet.

• Joel said he could see dropping the magazine and producing books, or Catalogs as a fine way to go, if we can afford to do the books or Catalogs.

• He didn't feel we had kept him up to speed. He hadn't seen any numbers. He asked me to let him know every new thing we do as soon as it happens.

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Comments: My sense is that we are not out of the running entirely, but that we must make bold moves if anything more is to come from them. It has to be crystal clear that the money will be used effectively for closing the $20,000 a month gap.